[English]

Setting up of Agriculture Drainage in CWC

1342. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate division of Agricultural drainage in the Central Water Commission for controlling the salinity and water logging;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said division is proposed to be manned by Agricultural Engineers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is already one Directorate functioning in Central Water Commission namely, Irrigated Area Drainage Directorate with the following functions :

* To prepare and update report on present status of water-logging, salinity and alkalinity, covering drainage works undertaken in the command.
* Technical scrutiny of drainage project reports and provide technical support as necessary.
* Technical scrutiny of research projects received through Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) to be funded by Ministry of Water Resources.
* Secretariat works of INCID special committee on drainage.
* Coordination works of R&D studies in regard to drainage under externally aided programmes.
* Investigation of water logged and salinity affected areas selectively subject to fund availability.
* Preparation of guideline for drainage works.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Transport facilities through Bangladesh

1343. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Ministry of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to facilitate transportation and communication through Bangladesh to connect North-Eastern States to the mainland of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Bangladesh thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to materialise this long standing demand of the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). The question of transit facilities through Bangladesh to provide transportation link between the North-Eastern States of India and the mainland has been raised on many occasions with the Government of Bangladesh. The subject remains under the consideration of the two Governments.

Shortage of Funds and Manpower for Army Hospitals

1344. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army hospitals are facing shortage of funds and manpower, especially at Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre in Kirkee;

(b) if so, the details of the other difficulties being faced by the Centre; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to provide standard care to critically ill patients in Army hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c). The Armed Forces personnel are treated in various Armed Forces Hospitals. The Armed Forces Hospitals are given adequate funds from the budget grant. Army Medical Corps has manpower shortage of less than 10% which is considered normal.

2.1 The Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee is a registered society and looks after the paraplegic ex-Servicemen who have been invalidated from service. This Centre is autonomous in its functioning and has its own corpus of funds. The Kendriya Sainik Board also provides annual financial assistance for its maintenance and the up-keep of the inmates. During the last three years the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee has been given following financial assistance by the Kendriya Sainik Board :

Year	Amount
1994-95	Rs. 12,73,900/-
1995-96	Rs. 12,60,162/-
1996-97	Rs. 15,96,565/-

2.2 At present, the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Pune, has 75 inmates, with a staff of 53 employees including 19 Attendants, 1 Medical Superintendent, 2 Physiotherapists and 2 Nursing Assistants.

3. All standards medical facilities are available in the Armed Forces Hospitals. Modernisation and upgradation of hospitals is an on going process. Recently, the Government have also approved a scheme for procuring specialised medical equipment for the Armed Forces Hospitals at a cost of over Rs. 66 crores.

[Translation]

Complaint Advisory Board

1345. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 'Complaint Advisory Board' has been constituted in the office of the Chief of Army Staff to consider the complaints of the serving personnels;

(b) if so, whether the number of complaints has increased during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c). A Complaints Advisory Board was constituted in the office of the Chief of the Army Staff in February, 1986 to consider the complaints of serving personnel primarily pertaining to career matters such as supersession and perceived adverse or low gradings/remarks in Annual Confidential Reports, etc. During the last three years, there has been a marginal annual increase in the number of complaints. The details are given below :

	Year	No. of complaints
(a)	1993	1393
(b)	1994	1589
(c)	1995	1653
(d)	1996 (upto October, 1996)	1261

2. The marginal annual increase in the complaints are due to the following reasons :

(i) Decreased inhibition in putting up complaints.

(ii) Increased career aspirations.

This can also be interpreted as increased as increase of faith in the grievances redressal system.

Indians in Foreign Jails

1346. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Indian soldiers and citizens are still imprisoned in foreign jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on November 30, 1996 country-wise;

(c) the action taken or being taken by the Government for the early release of these prisoners; and

(d) the number of Indians got released from foreign jails during the last two years and till November 1996 as a result of the efforts made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). The information available with Government till June, 1996 regarding number of Indian soldiers and citizens in foreign jails is at Annexure 'A'. information, as on November 30, 1996 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As soon as the Mission/Post comes to know about the arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the concerned authorities for seeking consular access to the Indian national under arrest. The Consular Officer visits the detainee to ascertain the grounds and circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary the Mission takes up the matter at a higher level with the host Government for speedy and fair trial or review of sentence so that early release can be undertaken. The Indian Missions/Posts abroad also take care to see that Indian detainees are treated properly while in jail.

(d) The information available with Government till June, 1996 regarding number of Indians released from foreign jails is enclosed as Statement. Information, as on November 30, 1996, is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Mission	Indians in Foreign Jails		Indians Released from foreign jails during last 2 years
		Soldiers	Civilians	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Afghanistan	nil	nil	nil
2.	Algeria	nil	nil	nil
3.	Angola	nil	nil	nil
4.	Argentina	nil	nil	3
5.	Australia	nil	5	11
6.	Austria	nil	74	63
7.	Bahrain	nil	82	nil
8.	Bangaladesh	nil	491	nil
9.	Belarus	nil	3	nil
10.	Belgium	nil	nil	nil
11.	Bhutan	nil	60	87
12.	Belize	nil	nil	nil
13.	Bolivia	nil	nil	nil